


Ziziphus

<i>Ziziphus</i>	
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rhamnus Ziziphus L.</i></p>	
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> , by Adolphus Ypey.	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Rhamnaceae
Tribe:	Paliureae
Genus:	<i>Ziziphus</i> Mill., 1768
Type species	
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill.	
Species	
See text	
Synonyms	
<i>Condaliopsis</i> (Weberb.) Suess. <i>Sarcomphalus</i> P.Browne	

Ziziphus ^[1]/ˈzɪzɪfəs is a genus of about 40 species of spiny shrubs and small trees in the buckthorn family, Rhamnaceae, distributed in the warm-temperate and subtropical regions throughout the world. The leaves are alternate, entire, with three prominent basal veins, and 2–7 cm (0.79–2.76 in) long; some species are deciduous, others evergreen. The flowers are small, inconspicuous yellow-green. The fruit is an edible drupe, yellow-brown, red, or black, globose or oblong, 1–5 cm (0.39–1.97 in) long, often very sweet and sugary, reminiscent of a date in texture and flavour.

Overview

The generic name is derived from *zizfum* or *zizafun*, the Persian word for *Z. lotus*. They are Rhamnaceae, near to the Buckthorn genus.

Ecology

Ziziphus species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including *Bucculatrix zizyphella*, which feeds exclusively on the genus, and *Endoclita malabaricus*.

Well known species includes *Z. jujuba* (Jujube), *Z. spina-christi* from southwestern Asia, *Z. lotus* from the Mediterranean region, and Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*), which is found from western Africa to India. *Ziziphus joazeiro* grows in the Caatinga of Brazil. *Ziziphus celata* is listed as an endangered species in the United States.

The fruits are an important source for birds, that eat the whole fruit and regurgitate seeds intact, expanding the seeds in the best conditions for germination (ornithochory). Secondly, the seed dispersal is carried out by mammals or fishes. The fruit is energy-rich because of the large amount of sugar it contains. It is cultivated and eaten fresh, dry, and in jam. They also get added as a base in meals and in the manufacture of candy. The leaves can be either deciduous or evergreen depending on species, and aromatic.

They are temperate or tropical plants, having a great range. They are most abundant in annual average temperatures between 12 and 35°C, minimum winter temperatures not lower than -2 °C. Prefers locations with a high temperature coupled with humidity. They require a deep soil, fresh, soft, siliceous-calcareous nature or limestone-clay-silica-clay and subsurface permeable, with pH between 5.5 and 7.8. they not grow well on excessively sandy or clay soils which may be affected by standing water, the plants acquire a limited development. Many species are very sensitive to drought, and if the land is excessively dry and of calcareous nature, may resent the lack of moisture. At the slightest drought is frequent premature fruit drop. *Ziziphus* has several relict species living in temperate areas. The species can not enduring the bad winter, from temperate continental climate.

The ecological requirements of the genus, are mostly those of vigorous species with a great ability to populate the habitat that is conducive. This genus is adapted mostly to high rainfall and humidity, but some species are deciduous living in mediterranean humid climate. The deciduous *Ziziphus* species lose all of their leaves for part of the year depending on variations in rainfall. In deciduous tropical species, leaf loss coincides with the dry season in tropical, subtropical and arid regions. They grow mostly in tropical forests but has also been found in stubbles, pastures, in the coastal ranges, tropical mountain areas and interior in wet areas to dry regions. The family is distributed throughout tropical, subtropical areas, and cloud forest.

The differences are ecological adaptations to different environments over a relatively dry-wet climate. Species in less humid environment are smaller or less robust, with less abundant and thinner foliage and have oleifera cells that give trees with a more fragrant aroma.

Uses

In traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), *suan zao ren* (*Ziziphus spinosa*) is considered to be sweet and sour in taste, and neutral in action. It is believed to nourish the heart yin, augment the liver blood, and calm the spirit (TCM medical terms). It is used to treat irritability, insomnia and heart palpitations.

Mythology

The mythological lotus tree which occurs in Homer's Odyssey is often equated with *Z. lotus*, though the date palm is also a possible candidate.

Selected species

- *Ziziphus abyssinica* Hochst. ex A.Rich. (Dry zones of tropical Africa)
- *Ziziphus angolito* Standl.
- *Ziziphus apetalata* Hook.f. ex M.A.Lawson
- *Ziziphus attopensis* Pierre
- *Ziziphus celata* Judd & Hall (Florida, USA)
- *Ziziphus cotinifolia* Reissek
- *Ziziphus fungii* Merr.
- *Ziziphus funiculosa* Buch.-Ham. ex M.A.Lawson
- *Ziziphus guaranitica* Malme
- *Ziziphus havanensis* Kunth
- *Ziziphus horrida* Roth
- *Ziziphus hutchinsonii* (Philippines)
- *Ziziphus incurva* Roxb.
- *Ziziphus joazeiro* Mart.
- *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill. – Jujube
- *Ziziphus laui* Merr.
- *Ziziphus lotus* (L.) Lam. (Mediterranean region)
- *Ziziphus mairei* Dode
- *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. (Widespread through Old World tropics and subtropics)
- *Ziziphus melastomoides* Pittier
- *Ziziphus mexicana* Rose
- *Ziziphus mistol* Griseb. (Gran Chaco of South America)
- *Ziziphus montana* W.W.Smith
- *Ziziphus mucronata* Willd. – Buffalo Thorn (Southern Africa)
- *Ziziphus nummularia* (Burm.f.) Wight & Arn. (Thar Desert of South Asia)
- *Ziziphus obtusifolia* (Hook. ex Torr. & A.Gray) A.Gray – Lotebush
- *Ziziphus oenoplia* (L.) Mill.
- *Ziziphus oxyphylla* Edgew.
- *Ziziphus parryi* Torr. – Parry's Jujube
- *Ziziphus platyphylla* Reissek
- *Ziziphus quadrilocularis* F.Muell. (Northern Australia)
- *Ziziphus robertsoniana*
- *Ziziphus rugosa*
- *Ziziphus saeri* Pittier
- *Ziziphus spina-christi* (L.) Desf.
- *Ziziphus talanai* (Blanco) Merr. (Philippines)
- *Ziziphus trinervia* (Cav.) Poir.
- *Ziziphus undulata* Reissek
- *Ziziphus xiangchengensis* Y.L.Chen & P.K.Chou
- *Ziziphus xylopyrus* (Retz.) Willd.

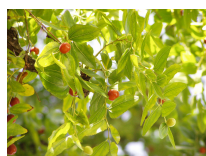
List Sources:

Fossil species

- † *Ziziphus hyperboreus* Heer (Greenland, Eocene fossil)
- † *Ziziphus wyomingianis* Berry (Tipperary, Wind River Basin Wyoming, USA, Eocene fossil)

† = Extinct

Gallery



Ziziphus jujuba foliage



Dried fruits (azufaifas) in southern Spain of *Ziziphus jujuba*



Azufaifas from Almería



Ziziphus mauritiana



Ziziphus oenoplia in Shamirpet, Rangareddy district, Andhra Pradesh, India.



Ziziphus oenoplia in Shamirpet, Rangareddy district, Andhra Pradesh, India.



Ziziphus spina-christi



Ziziphus xylopyrus in Hyderabad, India.



Ziziphus xylopyrus in Hyderabad, India.



Ziziphus xylopyrus in Hyderabad, India.



Persian *Ziziphus* in Iran

References

- [1] *Sunset Western Garden Book*, 1995:606–607

Article Sources and Contributors

Ziziphus *Source:* <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=598096890> *Contributors:* Alexandrov, Auntof6, AvicAWB, Badagnani, Charles.2345, Chinasaur, Crazy Ivan, Deflective, Dmitri Lytov, Duff, Dysmorodrepanis, EncycloPetey, Ethel Aardvark, Flyer22, Gaius Cornelius, Hamamelis, HenryLi, Hibernian, IP Singh, IceCreamAntisocial, Jero Smith Ju, Jmgarg1, Jmorgan, Koibeatu, Kwamikagami, MPF, Maias, Marco Schmidt, Miwasatoshi, Mmcannis, Mohamadian, Narvalo, Nono64, Octahedron80, Pallab1234, PigFlu Oink, Pixeltoo, Plantdrew, Ricardo Carneiro Pires, Richard Barlow, Rkitko, Rosarinagazo, Shrimp wong, Sillyfolkboy, Sonia Murillo Perales, TDogg310, Tom Radulovich, Vuong Ngan Ha, فلورانس أرمغان, 17 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

File:Zizyphus zizyphus Ypey54.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Zizyphus_zizyphus_Ypey54.jpg *License:* Public Domain *Contributors:* Adolphus Ypey

Image:Ziziphus zizyphus foliage.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_zizyphus_foliage.jpg *License:* unknown *Contributors:* Lusitana, MPF

Image:Ziziphus jujuba MS 2461.JPG *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_jujuba_MS_2461.JPG *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.5 *Contributors:* Marco Schmidt

Image:Azufaifas fcm.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Azufaifas_fcm.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.5 *Contributors:* Photographer: Frank C. Müller

File:Ziziphus mauritiana fruit.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_mauritiana_fruit.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 *Contributors:* Ethel Aardvark

File:Ziziphus oenoplia W IMG_3626.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_oenoplia_W_IMG_3626.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 *Contributors:* J.M.Garg

File:Ziziphus oenoplia W2 IMG_3624.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_oenoplia_W2_IMG_3624.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 *Contributors:* J.M.Garg

Image:Ziziphus spina-Christi.jpg *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_spina-Christi.jpg *License:* GNU Free Documentation License *Contributors:* Eitan f

Image:Ziziphus caracutta syn Z xylopyra (Ghatbor) in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, AP W IMG 9259.jpg *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_\(Ghatbor\)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9259.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_(Ghatbor)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9259.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike *Contributors:* J.M.Garg

Image:Ziziphus caracutta syn Z xylopyra (Ghatbor) in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, AP W IMG 9256.jpg *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_\(Ghatbor\)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9256.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_(Ghatbor)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9256.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike *Contributors:* J.M.Garg

Image:Ziziphus caracutta syn Z xylopyra (Ghatbor) in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, AP W IMG 9255.jpg *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_\(Ghatbor\)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9255.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Ziziphus_caracutta_syn_Z_xylopyra_(Ghatbor)_in_Vanasthalipuram_Hyderabad,_AP_W_IMG_9255.jpg) *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike *Contributors:* J.M.Garg

Image:Iran Zizyphus.JPG *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Iran_Zizyphus.JPG *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0 *Contributors:* User:فلورانس

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)